CII's Suggestion on Trade Relation with EU

974. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) has suggested Government to explore the possibility of cooperation in manufacturing sector with the Europen Union (EU) in engineering goods, capital goods and auto components; and

(b) if so, the response of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As a follow up of the 'agenda for action' of the first India-EU Summit meeting held in Lisbon on 28.6.2000, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and their EU counterparts have taken up the initiative for joint study on the opportunities available for enhancement of bilateral trade and industry between Indian and EU countries. The sectors of engineering goods, capital goods and auto components are included in the sector identified by CII.

Working of Commodity Boards

975. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Ministrer of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether PP Prabu Committee has recommended widespread changes in the working of the Commodity Boards for tea, coffee, rubber, spices and marine products; and

(b) if so, the details of the changes recommended and the other recommendations and suggestions made, commodity specific and in general by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of Prabhu Committee mainly relate to changes in the existing structure and activities of the Coffee Board, Tea Board, Rubber Board, Spices Board, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA). The recommendations include rationalization and reformulation of existing schemes,